(b) how it compares with Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh; and

(c) reasons for low density of rail routes in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) The Railway route length (route kms) per 1000 sq. kms. in Madhya Pradesh as on 31.3.2001 is 15.52 kms. as against Andhra Pradesh 18.67 kms., Gujarat 27.10 kms., Tamil Nadu 32.21 kms and Uttar Pradesh 35.93 kms. However, in terms of route kms. per lakh of population, Madhya Pradesh with 7.93 kms. is ahead of Andhra Pradesh (6.78 kms), Tamil Nadu (6.74 kms), Uttar Pradesh (5.16 kms) as well as All India average of 6.14 kms.

(c) The expansion of rail network is not planned State-wise but is based on various considerations including operational requirement, strategic considerations, socio-econoic reasons and various other parameters.

Derailment of Karwar-Mumbai Holiday Special

691. SHRI LALIT SURI:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Karwar-Mumbai holiday special derailed on the night of 22nd June, 2003 causing a major accident resulting in loss of lives and serious injuries to passengers and damage to railway property;

(b) if so, what are the causes of the accident; and

(c) the number of passengers and others who lost their lives and those who were seriously injured;

(d) the extent of loss to railway property; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to avoid recurrence of such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Commissioner of Railway Safety/Central Circle has mentioned in his preliminary report

that the derailment of 904 Up Karwar-Mumbai Holiday Special was caused due to 'failure of right side slope of cutting-resulting into obstruction on track'.

(c) and (d) In this unfortunate accident, 52 persons lost their lives and 26 others suffered grievous and simple injuries. The total cost of damage to the Railway property in this accident was approximately Rs. 3.03 crores.

(e) Following steps have been taken by Konkan Railway Corporation after the derailment of 904 Up Holiday Special:—

(i) In addition to patrolling at all identified vulnerable locations, an hourly inspection and monitoring of the entire cutting portions by using 5 to 6 locomotives equipped with instant mobile communications and engineering official travelling on the locomotive has been started.

(ii) Motor trolleys have been pressed into service for intensive motor trolley based patrolling.

(iii) A speed restriction of 40 kmph has been imposed on all cuttings deeper than 12 metres at 224 locations.

(iv) Drivers and Station masters, Section Engineer (P.Way) have been instructed to impose a restriction of 40 kmph on trains when they observe very heavy monsoon.

(v) Installation of warning devices "Raksha Dhaga" giving prewarning in the form of audio visual Indication to drivers, if
cutting fails and track gets obstructed. 100 such units are already placed and another 800 units will be installed shortly.

(vi) Electronic pendulum/inclinometer will be installed (400 metres), which will be coupled with Anti-Collision Device (ACD) technology to pre-wam even before a cutting fails.

(vii) Electronic rain gauges to measures hourly intensity of rainfall will be installed and will be integrated with ACD technology. If intensity of rainfall exceeds 2.5 cm per hour, ACD will automatically stop the train or driver will be alerted.

(vii) Seismographic monitors will be installed along the Railway track.

These are also to be integrated with ACD technology to pre-warn, when the cumulative seismic energy reaches a benchmark value.

Theft in Railway Yards

†692. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidents of thefts have increased while loading/ unloading the goods at the Railway yards during the last three years;

(b) if so, the value of the goods stolen, year-wise/zone-wise;

(c) the number of persons found responsible for these thefts; and

(d) what action has been taken against such persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) 1344, 1274 and 1228 persons were arrested for theft and dealt under provisions of RP (UP) Act during the years 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03.

Decision of consumer court on failure of air conditioner

693. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the District Consumer Court has recently directed the railway authorities to refund the amount taken from a passenger along with a penalty for the failure of air conditioning services in a super fast express, from New Delhi to Jammu Tawi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the directive of the consumer court has been implemented and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) In one case, District

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.